“During the English Conversation Hour, it was actually fun to talk about nonacademic issues with nice and patient people. I think talking with native speakers about everyday issues is really useful. But also talking with other international students with really different accents is also really useful.”

Harris Public Policy student (Chile)

“My writing and my speaking are much more fluent. It was absolutely necessary for my research purposes.”

Fulbright Visiting Scholar in Germanic Studies (Brazil)

“The writing course in ELI is amazingly productive and is one of the most excellent courses I have ever taken at UChicago. The ELI prepares us to write all kinds of English, from an ordinary email to a dissertation.”

Law School student (Japan)

8
students in the average class

96%
students in ELI courses and individualized instruction rated their instructors as excellent

12
UChicago schools and divisions served by ELI

In keeping with its long-standing traditions and policies, the University of Chicago considers students, employees, applicants for admission or employment, and those seeking access to University programs on the basis of individual merit. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or other protected classes under the law. Learn more at equalopportunity.uchicago.edu.
The English Language Institute (ELI) empowers University of Chicago students and scholars who speak English as an additional language to bring their proficiency and confidence to new levels. With rigorous, proven programming that is tailored to meet UChicago’s high-level academic requirements, the ELI’s expert instructors introduce cutting-edge pedagogical techniques. Students learn to improve their English in academic and professional contexts as well as informal settings. At the ELI, students experience Chicago as a classroom as they learn with—and from—new international peers from across the University.

Learn effectively and flexibly

The ELI’s unique programming benefits students at all skill levels.

Sharpen your pronunciation, spontaneous speaking, and writing skills. If you choose the Individualized Instruction option, this includes one-on-one training with a language pedagogy specialist to build skills in discipline-specific English, academic writing, and linguistic and intercultural communication strategies for teaching.

Expand your skills with diverse programming

The English Language Institute offers programming throughout the calendar year with a range of experiences and commitment levels.

English Proficiency Assessments are conversational interviews that are structured to evaluate your English language and intercultural proficiency. We provide detailed feedback on your pronunciation, grammar, listening, comprehension, linguistic pragmatics, and intercultural communication skills.

Academic Year Courses are noncredit, eight-week courses that tackle such topics as pronunciation and fluency building, spontaneous speaking for fast-paced academic and nonacademic contexts, North American academic writing, and linguistic and intercultural communication strategies for teaching.

Individualized Instruction provides on-one-one training with a language pedagogy specialist to build skills in discipline-specific English, academic writing, and English for career professionalism, conversation and culture for academic and professional contexts, and more.

An English Conversation Hour is offered weekly during the academic year for all proficiency levels to discuss new and interesting topics, learn about North American cultures, and network with students and scholars from across the University as you build English proficiency and communication skills.

The Academic English Pre-Matriculation Program (AEPP) is the ELI’s signature program, allowing incoming international students to expand their North American English skills as they explore their new city of Chicago. In this rewarding, intensive course that takes place in the summer before the start of Autumn Quarter, you will build proficiency with linguistic, cultural, and academic objectives as you engage with native and non-native English speakers throughout the city. As an AEPP student, you will:

■ Build spontaneous speaking skills and refine your knowledge of linguistic pragmatics
■ Improve pronunciation and intonation while retaining your own unique voice
■ Engage deeply with the people and places of Chicago, including the varieties of English spoken here
■ Refine North American writing conventions and strategies
■ Network with students and professionals from different countries and areas of expertise

Small class size enables instructors to provide individualized attention.

“Write your courses very much.”

Yuki Riho
Harris Public Policy MPP student (Japan)

“[My ELI instructor] knew a lot about other languages and cultures. When we made a mistake, he knew why we were making it because of grammar or pronunciation in our native language. I had been in the US for two years, and I had been trying to imitate how native speakers sounded. My instructor taught me that it isn’t only about sounding American, it’s about having people understand you better. If you are an academic, this class will help you as much as your math classes. You can be a genius, but people need to be able to understand what you write and say.”

Cem Randa
Chicago Booth PhD candidate (Turkey)

Engage with experienced teachers

Learn from expert instructors who have a passion for language and teaching.

Our pedagogy specialists and instructors have decades of experience teaching English across the globe with diverse populations in corporate and academic settings. Their deep knowledge of world languages and the ELI’s small class sizes allow instructors to provide immediate, individualized feedback to improve your approach to speaking and writing English.

Through in-class discussion and activities, personal and group assignments, and structured trips to explore the city, you will build confidence and comfort with the English language and North American cultures as you gain experience speaking with welcoming peers and instructors in new, engaging settings.

An academic year course is structured to provide a rewarding, intensive experience in a unique learning environment. Our pedagogy specialists and instructors have decades of experience teaching English across the globe with diverse populations in corporate and academic settings. Their deep knowledge of world languages and the ELI’s small class sizes allow instructors to provide immediate, individualized feedback to improve your approach to speaking and writing English.

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